



November 2013

No. 340

Ecobon

The Hilton Head Island Audubon Society is a Chapter of National Audubon Society, Inc.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *by Rick Riebesell*

The Budget

The backbone of any organization is its budget. Take in less than is expended and the backbone becomes weak, and, given successive deficits, it will break. Take in more than you give out and the extra weight has a negative effect as well. The budget provides authority for the executive officers to spend to accomplish the goals of the strategic plan. It also provides a guideline for expenditures to avoid a deficit. The Hilton Head Island Audubon Society (HHIAS) Board of Directors just approved its budget for this fiscal year.

From a financial point of view, Newhall Preserve operates on its own. In the last fiscal year, the Preserve spent \$289 more than it received from contributions. Newhall Preserve has its own funded reserve for extraordinary expenditures in the approximate amount of \$34,000. For the sake of clarity, I will remove the Newhall figures from our considerations.

Generally, Newhall is an example of how HHIAS exercises its budget philosophy. For each activity there is an effort to have it be revenue neutral. That is to say that the activity will generate in contributions what it needs to expend to be successful.

Instead of presenting the standard accounting budget form, what follows is a synopsis. Last year HHIAS took in \$12,443 and spent \$11,999. HHIAS received funding from National Audubon in the amount of \$1,784. This amount is derived from a set formula (50% of the amount of "dues share" received by each chapter in 2001, the last year "dues share" was provided). The amount per chapter has been the same since 2003, and is not tied to the current number of members nor the amount of membership funding received from those members. HHIAS received local membership dues in the amount of \$1,615. Gross proceeds from the Birdseed Sale were \$5,850 (net proceeds were \$1,200). If you need a reason to do business with Wild Birds Unlimited in the Festival Center at Indigo Park, there it is. Almost three fourths of the income for the chapter comes from these three sources.

One of the largest expenditures is for insurance for liability and directors. This amount was \$1,909 in 2013. The expense of putting out the Ecobon newsletter was \$1,751. These items are reviewed carefully each year.

HHIAS has approximately \$35,890 in reserve. Given annual expenditures of about \$12,000, this is about three times annual expenditures. The directors have determined that this is an appropriate amount of reserve to maintain.

One of the reasons we balanced our budget last year is that we did not spend all the budgeted amount for education. This is not the way we should balance the budget. We should push to execute activity toward all our goals and be mindful of how we can create funding for our expenditures. That is why we charge for some things – even for dues paying members – and why we sometimes ask for contributions. As of now we have budgeted expenditures of about \$16,500, and we can reliably forecast income of about \$14,500. I know we will balance our budget, but I hope it is because we have found new sources of income and not because we have to cut back on our activities.

NOVEMBER FIELD TRIP *by Carlos Chacon* Monday, December 9, 2013

Audubon Field Trip to Harbor Island - Visit to the mud flats and estuarine environments at Harbor Island.

Space is limited to the first 25 participants. Group will arrive at Harbor Island at 10:30 am. The guard at the island entrance will have directions for the group. Participants should park at the Condos parking lot. Two representatives from Harbor Island will welcome the group and be with the group during the visit. The group will bird watch through the morning and depart somewhere after mid-day. Participants should bring their own food, water, sun protection and weather protection.

Please contact Carlos Chacon at cchacon@coastaldiscovery.org or at 843-689-6767 ext 226 to sign up for this field trip.

HHI Audubon

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John Faucette 785-2899

Recording Secretary

Marianne Currie 681-8525

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Marianne Currie 681-8525

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Christmas Bird Count Liason

Joan Wilson 837-2874

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Natalie Hefter 304-9789

Standing Committee Chairs:

Audubon Newhall Preserve

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Bird Walks/Field Trips

Carlos Chacon 290-0804

Conservation

Bill Nicol 671-4721

Education

Mary Jane Major 342-5804

Membership

Carol Clemens 689-2903

Programs

Kathy and Grant Greider 404-313-8208

Additional Contacts:

Adopt-A-Refuge (Pinckney)

Clem Dietze 837-2612

Bird House Construction

Jim Currie 681-8525

Bird Seed Sale

Ed Nash 681-5725

Christmas Bird Count

Charlotte White 837-4597

Historian

Shelia Johnson 295-5562

Sun City Representative

Richard Matheny 304-531-1039

Website: www.hiltonheadaudubon.org

The *Ecobon* is a monthly publication (September through May) of the Hilton Head Island Audubon Society. Subscription is a benefit of membership. Direct inquiries to P.O. Box 6185, Hilton Head Island, South Carolina 29938 or call one of the above officers or chairpersons.

NOVEMBER PROGRAM *by: Kathy Greider, Program Director*

Thursday, November 14, 2013, 3:00 p.m. at Coastal Discovery Museum at Honey Horn in the Sea Island Room.

FREE ~ Open to the public without registration. SNOWBIRDS WELCOME!

The Story of Hilton Head Island's Sea Turtle Protection Project

Amber Kuehn, Project Manager for The Hilton Head Island Sea Turtle Protection Project is our speaker in November and will present an entertaining and informative program on Sea Turtles. HHISTPP was initiated in 1985. It has evolved over 28 years to monitor all 14 miles of HHI Ocean facing beach, perform nest site relocation above the spring high tide line, implement genetic sampling, and employ a permitted staff of 8 for data collection for the conservation of this endangered species.



The project is managed by the Coastal Discovery Museum, funded by the Town of HHI, and permitted by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources.

Amber was raised with the May River in Bluffton as her playground. A 15 foot Boston Whaler and an adventurous (or maybe just fearless) 12 year old set out on quests to discover dolphins, sand bars, shrimp and blue crabs. Most everything was learned by trial and error... the type of learning that sticks. Although she knew the rhythm of the May, she could not always explain why it was so....

10 years later, our Bluffton child had a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from the University of Georgia and discovered the Coastal Discovery Museum's Sea Turtle Protection Project (HHISTPP). Three seasons of sea turtle nesting inspired an application to graduate school for a Master's degree in Marine Biology. Nova Southeastern University's Oceanographic Center in Ft. Lauderdale, FL manages the sea turtle protection project for Broward County Beaches which served as the subject of Amber's thesis defense regarding sea turtle nest site selection and sea finding in hatchlings.

Since boating was second nature, her Master 100 ton Captain's License was a natural progression and used to operate dive boats for HHI Scuba Dive and Travel, and later South Florida Diving Headquarters. As a scuba instructor and dive boat operator, the underwater world burst into reality. After 3 years in south Florida, she furthered her career for 2 more years in the diving industry for Maui Dive Shop. On Maui, she also participated in the Hawksbill Recovery Project.

In 2006, after 5 years of clear blue waters, she returned home to Bluffton and immediately began working with the HHISTPP. For 16 years total, the sea turtles have influenced her direction. She recalls the exact moment when she discovered her passion for the sea turtles that took her down this path....



Please come to Amber's presentation to learn more about Sea Turtles and what exactly caused Amber to come back to HHI.

NOTES FROM THE NEWHALL PRESERVE

by Jack Greenshields

I just finished yet another telephone call from an island visitor inquiring whether the government partial shutdown had caused the closure of the Audubon Newhall Preserve. Apparently, the closure of Pinckney Island leads some to conclude that everything else is similarly impacted. Please let everyone know that the Audubon Newhall Preserve is open! In fact, our Thursday morning 10 am guided walks will continue until November 21 and have been well received by many visitors.

A grant request for funding the installation of a fuel break around the Preserve perimeter has been submitted to the South Carolina Forestry Commission. A response is expected by year end.

With cooler weather (and fewer insects) maintenance in the Preserve takes a more active approach. We have had several work sessions with a number of volunteers clearing brush and removing dead plants. These efforts will continue until the holidays. There will be a workday scheduled for November 16, weather permitting. It is a great time to be outdoors!

As usual, if there are questions regarding the Audubon Newhall Preserve, please e-mail me at jackg308@gmail.com.



Want to share your love of birding?

Consider joining the Education Committee to help pass along the joys of birding to our younger residents. Please contact

Mary Jane Major to get involved in these rewarding programs and outings, 342-5804.

RECENT AREA BIRD SIGHTINGS

by Jack Colcolough

Our migration is near its end and we have experienced one of our poorer Fall migrations in recent years in numbers of species and birds moving through our area. Apparently, the bird flyway migration routes have been affected by our weather patterns and fewer migrants have ventured our way this Fall. However, we have had 20 total warbler species in our area this Fall vs. very good recent years of 27-34 warbler species. We only tallied 10 other migrant species this fall vs. good years past of 22-29 species. Crystal Lake, usually a warbler "hot spot" in Indigo Run, has had only nine warbler species this Fall vs. 27 last fall.

Rare birds sighted during the month were: Blackburnian, Blue Winged and Hooded Warblers and Gray-cheeked Thrush at Savannah NWR, Clay-colored Sparrow at Hutchison Island and Roseate Spoonbill on HHI and in Beaufort.



Roseate Spoonbill

Uncommon species reported included: Magnolia, Yellow, Orange-crowned and Prairie Warblers, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Black-bellied Whistling Duck, Piping Plover, Swainson's Thrush, Blue-headed Vireo, Wood Thrush, Veery, House Wren, Indigo Bunting, Blue Grosbeak, American Kestrel, Baltimore Oriole and Loggerhead Shrike.



Rose Breasted Grosbeak

Good arriving Shorebirds reported were: Banded Piping Plover, Marbled Godwit, Black-bellied and Semipalmated Plovers and Least Sandpiper plus commons.

Northern Flicker, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Eastern Phoebe, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Bald Eagle, Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant and Ruby-crowned Kinglet.

Other good birds reported were: Migrant Black-throated Blue, Black & White, Palm and Yellow-throated Warblers, migrant American Redstart, Common Yellowthroat, Northern Parula, Acadian Flycatcher and Painted Bunting.

Many Ruby-throated Hummingbirds have been reported but the numbers have been decreasing rapidly as expected. A few should remain all Winter. Dottie Bass has had hummers at her feeders in Port Royal Plantation every day for FIVE years. That has to be a remarkable record!

Many thanks to all reporting their bird finds: Barry Lowes, Dottie Bass, Natalie Hefter, Wendy Hansen, Annette Hausman, Deb Beamer, Carol Clemens, Susan/Kelly Murphy, Dianne Faucette, Kay Hodnett, Buddy Campbell, Richard Shulman, Diana Churchill, Fran Baer, Jane Hester, Dawn Brut, Doreen Cubie, Karen Marts, Mary Ann Lueckel, Jim Grove, Dick Phillips, Shelia Johnson, Cindy Groff, Karen Peterson, Joanne McMenamin, Nancy Hayes, Tom Lebouf and several visitors.

To report a bird sighting that is Accidental, Rare, Uncommon, Out-Of-Season, First-Of-The-Year (FOTY) or First-Of-The-Season (FOTS) e-mail: BirdingFriends@yahoogroups.com or call 843-432-2661 (MUST dial the 843). Please state your full name, the bird species sighted, date and location of your sighting and any other pertinent information about the sighting.



Blue Winged Warbler

Now that our Fall migration is about over, let's concentrate on finding our winter bird arrivals and where we can find them and other resident birds for our annual Christmas Bird Count in December.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT SHOW

Wednesday, December 4, 2013

7:00 pm - Social Hour 7:30 pm - Bird Presentation

The show will be held again at the First Presbyterian Church on Highway 278, next to the Bargain Box.

NOTE: The entrance to our meeting room is at the **SIDE** door not the front door. One of our members will be outside to welcome you. Parking is available and convenient.

The committee has given special attention to the lighting and the sound system which posed problems last year. Those problems have been remedied.

REFRESHMENTS from 7:00 to 7:30 PM, provided by generous members who bring cookies, cakes and other goodies. Drinks will be served.

DONATIONS - We are paying a significant donation to the church to cover their expenses. Your donation toward this rental is optional.

We look forward to sharing this special birding night with all of our members and guests.



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Please detach and mail or bring to the next meeting.

Local Membership: select either 1 year individual \$15 or 1 year family \$25

Last Name _____ First Name(s) _____

Address: _____ city _____ State _____ Zip _____

For LOCAL residents, please indicate your plantation/neighborhood such as Sea Pines, Indigo Run, Bluffton, Sun City etc. _____

Preferred phone: _____

Email: _____ (please print clearly!)

Can you help us with any of these activities on an as needed basis? Please check any of interest to you. Audubon Newhall Preserve Field Trips Conservation Education Christmas Bird Count Publicity/Programs other _____

Please mail to: P.O. Box 6185 – Hilton Head Island, SC - 29938

A PICTORIAL REVIEW OF THE PROBABLE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT SPECIES

Not an exam or a crib sheet but a wonderful review of the birds we are most likely to see on Bird Count Day, Saturday, December 14, 2013.

This program gives you an opportunity to see those birds we will all be searching for. Many members have remarked to me about how helpful the show has been as a refresher. The identification highlights and markings awaken their memories and aid them both on Count Day and throughout the year.

When you read this invitation and see the show on Wednesday, December 4, we will be only 2 weeks from the Big Day on December 14. Hilton Head Audubon will again be an important participant, joining thousands of counters throughout the Americas from the high arctic to the Tropics of South America.

Over the years our chapter has ranked high in the number of counters and the total species identified. While the Bird Count is not a competition our results have been impressive and rank high when compared to all other counts. Remember that when you agree to join our team on December 14 you are contributing to Citizen Science. This project has been continuous for more than 100 years. The results provide valuable data which helps scientists to address the big questions about bird life, habits, migration and survival.

By this date you should be in contact with your area captain. If you have not been contacted or are new to this project, call Charlotte White, 540-3858 or Barry Lowes, 837-3537, and we will ensure that you are placed on a team. Hilton Head has always welcomed anyone - beginner or experienced. Don't be hesitant, there is a role for everyone. All of our veteran, knowledgeable counters started from zero.

Your captain will outline what you need for Count Day, from proper clothing, rainwear, footwear, binoculars, camera, snack, etc. The captains are experienced birders and very considerate of how to make your day memorable. I predict that some will find a new rewarding lifetime interest and discover new friends. If you have any questions, call your captain. If you are not yet connected to a team, call one of us.

Remember that traditionally we seem to need one counter for each species we find. Last year 156 counters found 152 species and 30,003 individual birds. Your involvement is crucial to the yearly success of our chapter. The birds are all out there. All we have to do is find them! ENJOY THE EXPERIENCE.

Barry Lowes and Charlotte White



Hi Birders,

It's the time of year to consider joining Project Feeder Watch (PFW) if you enjoy watching the birds from your home and would like to report them as a part of very useful North American citizens science project.

All you have to do is:

- Pick a good spot in your home to observe your feeders and the birds that come to your yard.
- Count the bird species that you see or hear from that spot in your home on two days per week that you select. You can spend as little or as much time as you want observing during those two days.
- Report your data to The Cornell Lab of Ornithology once a week from November to April.

If you are interested in participating in or learning about PFW, go to: www.feederwatch.org or call 1-866-989-2473 and The Cornell Lab will send you a kit to get you started and give you detailed instructions on how and when to count birds, including data tally sheets.

It's a fun project to do in the warmth of your home during the Winter! I've enjoyed PFW for about ten years. Five of our HHI Auduboners participated in PFW last year and also exchanged our data weekly amongst ourselves.

Come join us! Jack C., HHI, SC



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Founded in 1974, the Hilton Head Audubon Society uses 100% of local membership dues for programs and activities in our own area. Your local dues provide support for the following:

- Monthly programs
- Field Trips
- Citizen Science projects such as the Christmas Bird Count
- Audubon Newhall Preserve
- Education Outreach programs such as Audubon Adventures in local schools
- Various learning opportunities

We need your help to continue these activities. All of the above are possible through our LOCAL DUES! We do NOT receive national funds for any of our local programs. Please join the Hilton Head Island chapter of the Audubon Society and support these local programs. Remember.....100% of the chapter dues stay LOCAL!

For membership information, contact: enews@hiltonheadaudubon.org

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Address: _____ city _____ State _____ Zip _____

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Hilton Head, South Carolina 29938
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Audubon

The Hilton Head Island Audubon Society is a Chapter of National Audubon Society, Inc.

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2013 Calendar

NOVEMBER

- Thurs. Nov. 7 **Board Meeting** 10:00 am
at the Country Club of Hilton Head
- Thurs. Nov. 14 **Monthly Meeting** at Honey Horn..... 3:00 pm

DECEMBER

- Weds. Dec. 4 **Bird Identification Program** 7:00 pm
at the First Presbyterian Church
- Thurs. Dec. 5 **Board Meeting** 10:00 am
at the Country Club of Hilton Head
- Mon. Dec. 9 **Field Trip to Harbour Island** 10:30 am
- Sat. Dec. 14 **Christmas Bird Count Day** All Day

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Monthly meetings of the Hilton Head Island Audubon Society are regularly scheduled at 3:00 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month, September through May. Meetings are held at the Coastal Discovery Museum, 70 Honey Horn Drive. Members and guests welcome!



BEQUESTS

If you wish to honor a family member or friend with a memorial gift, or remember the Audubon Ne-whall Preserve or the Hilton Head Island Audubon Society in your will, your gift may be in the form of securities, cash, life insurance, real estate, or other property.

Contact your own estate planner or our Audubon Chapter at P.O. Box 6185, Hilton Head Island, South Carolina 29938.

Sharing your estate with Audubon not only reduces the taxes on your estate but will help protect birds, wildlife, and their habitat in the years to come.